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Letter to the Editor

LT. GOV. AIONA

'WAR ON ICE' HAS NOT BEEN ABANDONED

I would like to respond to Earl Arakaki's March 22 letter, "Aiona view on ice shows war abandoned." Obviously, Mr. Arakaki is not in touch with the "war on ice."

It was just several days ago that Lt. Gov. Aiona spelled out in The Advertiser what kind of things have been done by the Lingle-Aiona administration. The war on ice doesn't begin with ice. Mr. Arakaki says that the ice problem should "not be lumped together with alcohol and pakalolo. These other 'drugs' pose problems, but not like the far-reaching effects of ice." The problem starts with a minor taking that first alcoholic drink or that first hit of marijuana and progresses to crystal methamphetamine.

I am a Peer Education teacher in a public high school, and part of my curriculum is focused on drugs and advocating for healthy decision-making regarding this issue. I, along with my colleagues in other schools, have had the opportunity to work alongside Lt. Gov. Aiona with a project called "Protecting You, Protecting Me." Our high schoolers teach the elementary school students about how to protect themselves against the dangers of alcohol.

Not fighting the war on ice? On the contrary, if we can prevent children from drinking alcohol and teach them to make good decisions about any other drug, what is the likelihood of them doing crystal methamphetamine?

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